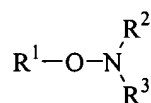


What is claimed is:

1-17 (previously cancelled)

18. (currently amended) An aqueous solution comprising a hydrogen-accepting coenzyme selected from the group consisting of NAD, NADP and derivatives thereof, citric acid or a citrate salt ~~one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of organic compounds or salts thereof having a pKa value between 1.5 and 6.0, and a nitrogen compounds~~ compound of the formula



in which R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and denote hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated alkyl or aryl group, the solution characterized by ~~having a pH between about 2.0 and 4.0~~ remaining qualitatively unchanged after storage at 2° to 8°C for 15 months.

19. (previously cancelled)

20. (previously amended) The solution of claim 18 wherein the concentration of the citric acid or citrate salt is about 5 to 200 mM.

21. (previously cancelled)

22. (original) The solution of claim 18 wherein the nitrogen compound is a hydroxylamine derivative or salt thereof.

23. (original) The solution of claim 22 wherein the concentration of the hydroxylamine derivative or salt is between about 2 and 300 mM.

24-53 (previously cancelled)

54. (cancelled)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

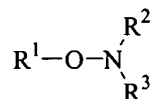
Please amend the above-identified patent application according to the Claims Listing dated 7/6/04 attached hereto and as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 54 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

18. (currently amended) An aqueous solution comprising a hydrogen-accepting coenzyme selected from the group consisting of NAD, NADP and derivatives thereof, citric acid or a citrate salt ~~one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of organic compounds or salts thereof having a pKa value between 1.5 and 6.0, and a nitrogen compounds~~ compound of the formula



in which R¹, R² and R³ are the same or different and denote hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated alkyl or aryl group, the solution characterized by ~~having a pH between about 2.0 and 4.0~~ remaining qualitatively unchanged after storage at 2° to 8°C for 15 months.